

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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65

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 SP-02 L-03 INR-07 EB-07 OES-06

PM-04 H-02 /057 W

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R 180753Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7787

C O N F I D E N T I A L NEW DELHI 12112

STADIS////////////////////////////////////

BOMBAY 2183 FOLLOWS. SENT TO NEW DELHI ON 17/AUG/76 FOR ACTION.
BEING REPTD FOR YOUR INFO.

QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L BOMBAY 2183

STADIS

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: TECH IN

SUBJ: FOLLOW-UP ON KRATZER VISIT

REF: A) BOMBAY 2132; B) NEW DELHI 11862

1. DURING THE INDEPENDENCE DAY OBSERVANCES OVER THE PAST WEEKEND, CONGEN HAD SEVERAL SEPARATE CONVERSATIONS WITH CHAIRMAN SETHNA AND J.C.SHAH REGARDING FOLLOW-UP TO THE KRATZER VISIT. SETHNA STILL HAD NOT FINALIZED HIS TRAVEL PLANS FOR SEPTEMBER AND OCTOBER BUT EXPECTS TO BE OUT OF THE COUNTRY FOR THE BETTER PART OF BOTH THOSE MONTHS. HE IS HOPEFUL THAT THE OUTLINE OF THE ACTIONS THAT NEED TO BE TAKEN ON AT LEAST SOME ISSUES CONNECTED WITH XSNM-845 WILL BE CLEAR BEFORE HIS DEPARTURE.

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WM SETHNA MENTIONED THAT HE HAS NOT HAD A DETAILED REPORT FROM

MEA ON KRATZER'S CONVERSATIONS IN NEW DELHI WITH VELLODI BUT HE UNDERSTANDS THAT KRATZER HAS INDICATED THAT A COMPREHENSIVE WRITTEN PROPOSAL ON THE BUY-BACK WILL BE SENT TO THE IAEC BY KRATZER. SETHNA HOPES THAT TRANSMITTAL OF TECHNICAL INFORMATION THAT KRATZER PROMISED DURING HIS TALKS IN BOMBAY WILL NOT BE HELD-UP PENDING COMPLETION OF A FULL BUY-BACK OFFER. SPECIFICALLY, SETHNA HOPES TO GET AS SOON AS POSSIBLE US VIEWS ON

(A) CASK DESIGN, (B) VOLUME MEASUREMENTS AND WEIGHT ESTIMATES, AND (C) THE SIZE OF THE UNIT PROGRAM, THAT IS HOW MANY SPENT FUEL ASSEMBLIES WILL BE MOVED IN EACH SHIPMENT. SETHNA NEEDS THIS INFORMATION IN ORDER TO ASSESS POSSIBILITIES FOR MOVEMENT OF THE SPENT FUEL FROM THE WASTE POOLS TO THE RAILHEAD AND THEN BY RAIL TO BOMBAY PORT AND TRANSSHIPMENT TO OCEAN-GOING VESSELS. THERE IS OF COURSE THE POSSIBILITY THAT LOCAL ARRANGEMENTS MIGHT HAVE TO BE DESIGNED TO PUT THE SPENT FUEL ON THE WATER RIGHT AT TARAPUR FOR TRANSHIPMENT TO LARGER VESSELS IN THE BOMBAY HARBOR. NONE OF THESE QUESTIONS CAN BE TACKLED UNTIL THE TECHNICAL DETAILS OF OUR DESIRES ARE GIVEN TO HIM.

3. SETHNA IS ALSO KEEN TO HAVE ARRIVE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE THE WASHINGTON EXPERT KRATZER WILL SEND TO VERIFY THE CURRENT ESTIMATE THAT INDIA MUST RECEIVE ANOTHER SHIPMENT OF URANIUM HEXAFLORIDE BY MID-FEBRUARY IF POWER CUTBACKS AT SOME DATE IN THE FUTURE ARE TO BE AVOIDED BECAUSE OF DISRUPTION IN THE FUEL FABRICATION PROCESS. PREVIOUS CONGEN EXPERIENCE WITH SETHNA INDICATES THAT HIS SUBORDINATES WOULD BE VERY RELUCTANT TO COMMIT THEMSELVES ON THE MANY TECHNICAL POINTS THAT WILL BE INVOLVED IN THIS STUDY UNLESS THE CHAIRMAN IS PRESENT TO GIVE HIS ENDORSEMENT. SETHNA WOULD OBVIOUSLY LIKE TO HAVE THIS EXPERT ARRIVE HERE NOT LATER THAN THE FIRST WEEK OF SEPTEMBER.

4. SETHNA STILL CLAIMS TO BE UNDECIDED AS TO WHETHER HE SHOULD VISIT THE US AT THE END OF HIS TRIP TO BRAZIL IN THE LATTER PART OF SEPTEMBER. CONGEN BELIEVES THAT HE EXPECTS SOME FURTHER INDICATION FROM US AS TO WHETHER LATE SEPTEMBER WOULD BE A PROPITIOUS TIME FOR A STOPOVER IN WASHINGTON. HE IS LIKELY TO TAKE THE ABSENCE OF ANY INDICATION FROM US AS REFLECTIVE OF A NEGATIVE ATTITUDE ON OUR PART.

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TM THE CONGEN WOULD APPRECIATE INDICATIONS OF DEPARTMENT'S VIEWS ON THE PRECEDING PARAGRAPHS.

COURTNEY

UNQUOTE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: VISITS, NUCLEAR POWER PLANTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 18 AUG 1976
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: vogelfj
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976NEWDE12112
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760316-1032
From: NEW DELHI
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760843/aaaabkpe.tel
Line Count: 114
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: STADIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: STADIS
Reference: 76 BOMBAY 2132, 76 NEW DELHI 11862
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: vogelfj
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 09 JUN 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <09 JUN 2004 by buchant0>; APPROVED <06 OCT 2004 by vogelfj>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: FOLLOW-UP ON KRATZER VISIT
TAGS: TECH, OTRA, IN, US, (KRATZER, MYRON), (SETHNA)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006